

## Second Reading Speech

### **Jobs Package (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2013**

Mr Speaker,

The Jobs Package (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2013 amends the *Employment Incentive Scheme (Payroll Tax Rebate) Act 2009* and the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000*.

The amendments contained in this Bill support the initiatives announced by the Government on 10 December 2012 in the Tasmanian Jobs Package.

The Jobs Package focuses on people and opportunities, and is designed to boost confidence and maximise jobs in the State. Tasmanians are already seeing the benefits from these initiatives, as they were rolled out immediately following the Government's announcement.

#### **Payroll tax rebate for additional employees**

Mr Speaker

The Government first implemented the Employment Incentive Scheme payroll tax rebate in the 2009-10 Budget to assist Tasmanian employers to take on additional staff during the global financial crisis.

The Employment Incentive Scheme was subsequently extended in the 2011-12 State Budget.

The Employment Incentive Scheme has been a proven performer, supporting the creation of 1 719 new jobs.

On 10 December 2012, the Government announced that it would again extend the Employment Incentive Scheme to support the creation of new jobs between 10 December 2012 and 30 June 2014.

The Scheme will have an effective job creation period of 18 months and will require the retention of new positions for a further 12 months, meaning that the Government will be stimulating job creation over two and a half years.

Payroll tax rebates for new jobs created during this period will commence from 1 July 2013 and continue to be paid until 30 June 2015, provided the jobs are maintained until that date.

It is estimated that the Scheme will support the creation of more than 850 jobs and provide rebates of \$4.0 million.

### **First Home Builder Boost**

Mr Speaker

The Tasmanian Government provides assistance to Tasmanians buying or building their first home through the First Home Owner Grant Act.

On 10 December 2012, the Government announced that it would more than double the assistance it provides to first home builders who construct a new home, or buy a newly constructed home, by increasing the first home owner grant of \$7 000 to \$15 000. This initiative is designed to stimulate the building industry and is expected to create 1 800 new jobs for Tasmanians.

This initiative commenced on 1 January 2013 and will run for 18 months. It is estimated to support the construction of 1 100 new first homes, providing housing construction activity worth approximately \$250 million.

### **Conclusion**

Mr Speaker, the amendments contained in this Bill give effect to commitments made by the Government on 10 December 2012.

I commend this Bill to the House.